

Bechtel Hanford awards nearly \$9 million in contracts

Bechtel Hanford has awarded RCI Environmental of Sumner, Wash., an \$8.2 million contract to add two disposal cells to the Hanford Site Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. A second contract for \$485,000 was awarded to Envirotech Engineering and Consulting of Enid, Okla., to provide construction quality assurance services for the expansion work.

The design for the expanded facility is complete and both companies will begin work in October, with construction to be completed in December 2004.

ERDF is an engineered, low-level-waste and mixed-waste disposal facility designed to accept soil and debris generated during Hanford cleanup activities. It currently comprises four enormous areas, or cells. Each cell is constructed with a bottom liner consisting of multiple layers of plastic, other impermeable materials and a system to catch liquids as they drain through the waste materials. The waste itself is compacted in two 35-foot layers separated by 2 feet of clean fill.

The first two cells went into operation in 1996. Each pair of cells is 70 feet deep, 500 feet long and 500 feet wide — large enough to hold 2.4 million tons of waste material. It was designed to be expanded as needed, and two additional cells were added to ERDF in 1999. When the current expansion is completed, the facility will have an operational capacity of 8 million tons.

RCI will excavate 1.5 million cubic yards of soil. The company will construct the barrier system and liquid collection and removal systems for the new cells and tie them into the existing cells. Workers also will excavate a construction buffer zone to accommodate future expansion. Envirotech will ensure the ERDF earthwork, liner and leachate collection systems are completed as designed.

To date, nearly 4.5 million tons of contaminated soil and debris have been deposited in the ERDF — almost half of the 10 million tons of contaminated



The Hanford Site Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility will be expanded by 50 percent. The new disposal cells will be ready to receive low-level and mixed Hanford cleanup wastes in 2005.

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material estimated to be located at waste sites and burial grounds near the Columbia River.

Each day, workers at ERDF typically empty an average of 145 containers filled with up to 20 tons of low-level and mixed waste. Most of the material is soil that comes from liquid waste effluent sites at the former plutonium production reactors along the Columbia River. ERDF also receives demolition debris from the reactors and waste from other Hanford facilities, and the Department of Energy and its regulators are considering a plan to help accelerate site cleanup by allowing disposal of other Hanford wastes there.

Duratek Federal Services is responsible for daily disposal operations at ERDF under subcontract to Bechtel Hanford, which manages the facility for DOE. Eberline Services Hanford provides radiological control services. ■